



UTAH  
AGRICULTURAL  
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# News Release

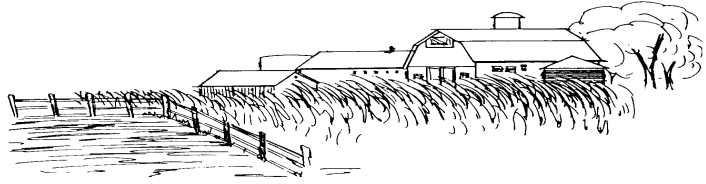
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## 2003 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey Results Released

In 2003, Utah farmers and ranchers irrigated nearly 1.1 million acres, ranking Utah 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation in total acres irrigated. Irrigation took place on 10,070 Utah farms in 2003, or on just about two-thirds of all farms and ranches in the State. For the Nation during 2003, a total of 220,163 farms (a little more than 10% of all farms) irrigated a total of 52.6 million acres.

The 2003 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey was conducted earlier this year from a sample of farms and ranches that reported irrigation during the 2002 Census of Agriculture. Results from the Survey include data on the source of irrigation water; energy costs per irrigated acre; type of irrigation system used (e.g., sprinkler, drip); equipment, facilities and land improvement expenditures; and more.

The results are used by irrigation equipment dealers, manufacturers, farmer organizations and associations, extension agents, government agencies, water and utility companies, and others to benchmark impacts due to policy or technology changes, determine the most effective measures to ensure efficient irrigation, and plan for the future.

The 2003 Farm and Ranch Survey highlighted some interesting facts about irrigation in Utah:

- Gravity flow, or flood irrigation, at 602,590 acres, accounted for 55.5% of all irrigated acres and was the most common type of irrigation, followed by sprinkler irrigation at 472,180 acres (43.5% of all irrigated acres).
- Water applied by all methods equaled 2,298,490 acre feet, averaging 2.1 acre feet per acre of irrigated land.
- The source of water applied to irrigated acres (some acres used more than one source) included off farm surface water (73% of all acres), wells (18% of all acres) and on farm surface water (10% of all acres).
- Total energy expense for on-farm pumping of water in 2003 came to \$14.2 million. The total costs of off-farm water came to \$12.7 million and averaged \$7.91 per acre-foot.
- Total investments in equipment, facilities and land improvements during 2003 came to \$24.1 million.

These facts and more for every State and the Nation are now available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) website at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. To order a printed copy call the NASS Order Desk at 800-999-6779, or contact Rick Kestle, Director, Utah Agricultural Statistics, at 800-747-8522.